

DESCRIPTION
OF
MERRYLAND.

CONTAINING, A
TOPOGRAPHICAL, GEOGRAPHICAL,
AND
NATURAL HISTORY of That COUNTRY.

*[quapropter] Novitate exterritus ipsa
non ex Animo Rationem; sed magis acri
perpende, Et, si tibi vera videtur,
Manus; aut, si falsa est, accingere contra.*
LUCRET. Lib. 2.

*Fly no Opinion, Friend, because 'tis New;
But strictly search, and after careful View,
Reject if False, embrace it, if 'tis True.* }
CREECH's Translat.

BATH:



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T O

GEORGE CHEYNE,

M. D. C. R. Ed. S. & S. R. S.

S I R,

IT is my Misfortune not to have the Honour of a personal Acquaintance with any GREAT MAN, to whom, with a tolerable Grace, I could apply the usual Panegyric, which Custom has made so necessary an Ingredient in DEDICATIONS: But turning my Thoughts to those, with whose *learned Works*, and *Labours for the public Good*, I am better acquainted, than with their Persons, YOU, SIR, immediately occurred as the *propereſt Patron* for the following Work.

DEDICATION.

Whether I consider you as an *eminent Physician*, as a Member of that learned Society, of which you are also one of the Greatest Ornaments, or as a *Philosopher*, endowed with an infinite Fund of Knowledge in Natural and Experimental Philosophy; whatever Light I view you in, your Accomplishments are so resplendent, so universally known, and admired, that no Lustre can be added to them by the greatest Encomiums: Their intrinsic Excellence take away all possibility of *Flattery*, and I blush as much at my Incapacity of giving you your *just Due*, as You would at ascribing more than they deserved, to *others*.

These Considerations *make this Work your peculiar Property*, and are very urgent Inducements for Addressing it to You, especially, as I have thereby the Advantage of exempting myself from that Hardship which attends

DEDICATION.

tends most Dedicators, of *inventing* the Virtues they celebrate.

To do Justice to your great Abilities, both as a Physician and Philosopher, to describe your amiable genteel Address, and polite Behaviour, your generous Contempt of Money, and Abhorrence of Adulation, with the rest of your "Christian Virtues, " which are not only universally *admi-
"red, but felt,"* would be a Task too difficult for any *sentient or intelligent Being*, incumbered with the *Adamical Crust of Clay*, and can never be executed with *Infallibility, Illability, and Impeccability*, but by those, who after a *progressive Purification*, are *developed and mundified*, of that *Plaster or Vehicle of a denser and coarser Element, superinduced over the primitive ætherial Body*, by which the Spirits are *infinitely condensed, concentered and incrassated*.

Your

DEDICATION.

Your learned Works, *Sir*, deriving from their Author a Ray, Efflux, or infinitesimal Emanation, are above the Reach of Critics, and by sending this into the World under your Patronage, I hope the extreme *Tenderness and Delicacy* of its lumbaginous State will be protected from the noxious and deleterious Qualities of those envious Wretches, “the Powers of whose
“Souls are sunk, concentrated, imprisoned, and contracted to a *punctum Saliens* by their unformed Tabernacle or Organical Vehicle, and
“cannot exert their intellectual Functions.” These Critics “have by
“wrong, or no Culture, *stunted* the
“Organs of their Faculties, and by a
“perpetual *Mal-Regimen* distorted
“them; and like our Planet, have
“so many untoward and oblique
“Symptoms of a designed *Deteriority*, that they are not fit to *Commericat* with other Bodies: Like
“the *Scuttle-Fish*, they spout out
“their

DEDICATION.

“ their own *black Liquor* on the pel-
“ lucid Element.” In return for these
bad Qualities, I wish them no other
Exacerbation, or any thing more *dele-*
terious, than a strict Confinement to an
abstemious *vegetable Regimen*, and an
aqueous Beverage.

I shall not make any farther Intru-
sion on your precious Time, or divert
it longer from your *Philosophical Stu-*
dies, but submit the following Work
to your Perusal at a leisure Hour.

As you are now past the *Meridian*,
and the “ *hyperbolic Curve of Life*, is
“ at the Point of returning down wards
“ again,” it is not to be expected,
you can enjoy the Pleasure of making
any more Journies to MERRYLAND;
but, “ since all *sentient* and *intelligent*
“ Beings are made for Happiness, and
“ will by mere Instinct seek it *some-how*,
“ or *some-where*, I hope the following
“ Chapters will supply you with some
“ suitable

DEDICATION.

“ fuitable *Entertainment* and *Amuse-*
“ *ment*, with which your leifure
“ Hours may be agreeably diverted,
“ while you continue in this *lapsed*,
“ *expiatory* and *progressive State*,” till
you gradually put off this *Adamical*
Tabernacle, and slide into another, ac-
cording to the general Laws of *Puri-*
fication, till at last you arrive at that
fixed and *permanent State* designed
for you in the universal *System* of In-
telligences.

I beg leave to assure you, that I
have the most “ vehement *Willings*,
“ *Longings*, *Volitions*, and *Velleities*,”
to approve myself,

S I R,

Your great Admirer,

most humble,

and

most obedient Servant,

The EDITOR.

Bath, 20 Oct. 1740.

THE
EDITOR
TO THE
READER.

IT is become an Observation, trite enough, that when any Work, like This, which is new and curious, makes its Appearance in the World, almost every one is desirous to have some Account of the Author.

To satisfy therefore in some Measure this common Curiosity, I shall acquaint my Reader with all that I have been able to learn concerning the Writer of the following Sheets.

His Name I find to be ROGER PHEU-
QUEWELL, with the Addition of *Esq*;
descended from an ancient Family
a in

in *Ireland*, remarkable for their being Red-Haired, of great Note, and of *long standing* in that Country. He was the youngest Brother of nine, and consequently could have no great Patrimony to begin the World withal, and therefore in the Year 1717, he came to *London* to seek his Fortune, as several of his Relations had successfully done before him; he was then in the full Vigour of Youth, bless'd with great Abilities, a good Address, a most advantageous Stature, and well proportioned graceful Shape, and otherwise well qualified. All these Advantages soon recommended him to the most inward Favour of a rich Widow, whom he in a short time married, and during her Life was genteelly maintained by her Jointure. He made frequent Journies to MERRYLAND in her life-time; but after her death, he took a Fancy to be almost continually going and coming, and spent so much in these Journies, that

that he was reduced to very low Circumstances, and retired at last to *Boulogne* in *France*, where he died the 19th of *April* 1738, N. S. and at his death the following Sheets were found among his other Papers.

He was lodged at a *Hôtelere* in that Town, the Master of which had a near Acquaintance with a *Capuchin* Fryar, whom he called to his Assistance in examining the Papers of the deceased. To be short, the Fryar upon looking some time into the Manuscript, cried out to the Hotelier, or Landlord, "Here is a Curiosity, I believe, that will pay, not only what is owing to you for Bed and Board, but will, over and above that, put Money in your Pocket ;" and so he voluntarily offered to translate it into *French* for his Benefit.

Accordingly this was done, but the *Capuchin* not being a sufficient Master

ster of the *English* Tongue to do Justice to the Author, the Book was published with so many Errors and Mistakes, that the Writer himself, had he been alive, could not have known it for his own.

It's first Step into the World (thus deformed) was no longer after the Author's Death than the Middle of *June* following, and notwithstanding all its Blemishes, it met with so good a Reception in *France*, that it is now some Months since it went through the sixth Edition at *Paris*.

Soon after the first Publication, our Author was so well relished in *Madrid*, that a *Spanish* Translation was published there by *Don Juan Compostella il Tarragona*, dedicated to the Archbishop of *Saragossa*, but this Version was not less faulty than that of the Fryar.

An *Italian* has done the Author more Justice, for which Reason it was thought he had, by some means or other, procured an *English* Copy : This was published at *Rome*, in *March* 1739, and altho' the Translator is not certainly known, it is supposed to be the Work of *an eminent Cardinal*, whose Name I am not at Liberty to mention.

Nor was it long after, that a neat Edition was published at *Dantzick*, in the *Polish* Language, by one *Venskousky Wisniawsky*, and another much about the same time in *Danish*, printed at *Copenhagen*, by *Gaspar Gluckstat* ; not to mention the *Dutch* and *German* Editions, which would be too tedious to enumerate in this Place.

It may perhaps be allowed, that there is not a great deal to be said in
Com-

Commendation of our Author's Diction; but then it may be answered, that a Work of so grave and serious a Nature, could not well admit of those Flowers and Ornaments, which embellish Subjects of Wit and Humour. However, it is more than probable, he would have corrected the Style, as the last Hand to the Work, before he put it to the Press, had not Death prevented him.

Notwithstanding any accidental Disadvantages that have attended this Work, it has, like the Palm, flourished in Spite of all Oppression: And it is evident, that the surprisingly good Reception it has met with, in so many different and so far distant Countries, could not have happened, but from the *Truth* and *Novelty* of the Subject. It would therefore be very difficult to account for any thing so extraordinary, as that so valuable a Piece should never have spoke its own

Lan-

Language (if I may be allowed the Expression) till this Time; especially when we consider how many of our Countrymen have been travelling abroad in the time of which we are speaking, how much Diligence is daily made use of to procure any thing that is new, in all Parts of *Europe*; and lastly, that we have so many Translators (of the *French* in particular) that hardly any thing, new or old, can escape their Labour. I am unwilling to attribute this long Neglect in *England* of so valuable an Author, to any greater Depravity in our Taste, or less Relish for useful Learning than our Neighbours; tho' I am much afraid, our Fondness for Fairy-Tales, fabulous Stories, monstrous Fictions and Romances, has of late Years too much increased, and makes us take the less Delight in studying such grave and serious Books, as this now before us.

I shall

I shall detain the Reader no longer, but only to assure him, that I have taken all possible Care to make this Edition correct, having luckily had an Opportunity of seeing the original Manuscript with which this was carefully collated.

Upon the whole, I think, I may reasonably hope to see this valuable Work at last kindly received in *England*, and go thro' as many Editions here, as it has done in *France*, and is likely to do in almost all the Countries in *Europe*.



P R E F A C E

BY THE

A U T H O R.

*F*Avoured by indulgent Providence with twenty Years Experience, and frequent Opportunities of acquainting myself with the Situation and Circumstances of MERRYLAND, I have at length finished my Inquiries into The Present State of that Country, and disposed the Materials I have collected, in such a Manner as, I presume, will give every one, who desires to be informed, a tolerable Idea of the Country I have described.

It must be confessed however, there still remains some Part of this delightful Country undiscovered, and that there are many Laws, Customs, and Curiosities, of which we have hitherto a very imperfect Knowledge. Of these I have chosen to say little or nothing,

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rather

rather than amuse Mankind with the uncertain Guesſes and fabulous Relations of idle Travellers, who observing the Weakneſs of the Generality of Readers, and their Guſt for every Thing that carries an Air of Novelty and Wonder, entertain them principally with Whimſies of their own Brains.

Since the World is no longer to be amused with the fabulous Relations of Travellers and Historians, any more than with the Dreams of Superſtition and Enthuſiaſm; an Attempt to diſtinguiſh Truth from Fiction, and to diſcover the Certainty of thoſe Accounts we have received of MERRY-LAND, it is preſumed, will not be unacceptable to this diſcerning Age. Relations monſtrous and unnatural may pleaſe the Weak and Indolent, but Truth and Nature only can ſatisfy the Wiſe: My Deſign therefore is to examine what others have publiſhed of
this

this wonderful and delicious Country, to compare them one with another, and with my own Observations, in order to sift out the Truth. And having searched narrowly into the State of this Country myself, and been conversant with many People, whose Inclinations led them to make Inquiries, and whose good Luck gave them frequent Opportunities of satisfying their Curiosities; I say, having made it my Business to inform myself from all the intelligent Travellers I have met with, and added their Remarks to my own, I hope I shall not be deemed altogether unqualified for such an Undertaking.

I need not say how useful and necessary a Work of this Nature will be to the World. I shall only observe, that no-body has ever attempted it before in this Method; and it is somewhat surprizing, that all the modern Geographers, such as Cluverius, Ortelius, Cellarius, &c. should be en-

b 2

tirely

tirely silent about so remarkable a Country, which was discovered many Ages ago, and was well known to the Ancients; as appears by Berosus a Chaldean, who wrote the History of Babylon in the Time of Antiochus Soter; and Herodotus, the most ancient Writer among the Greeks (whose Works have reached us) speaks of this Country, as a Place well known in those Days. It is as certain too, that the old Academics, Peripatetics, and Stoics, were tolerably well acquainted with this Country, as appears by some of their own Works, as well as by the Testimony of other Authors; and the great Metrodorus, who was a Scholar of Epicurus, was frequently there. Our English Geographers take no Notice of it; Mr. Moll in his Atlas has entirely omitted it, and the learned Mr. Gordon makes no mention of it, neither has Mr. Salmon said a Word of it in his Modern History: Or, Present State of all Nations; nor have
Mr.

*Mr. Cushee, or Mr. Senex, given it
a Place in their Globes.*

*I cannot imagine these Gentlemen
so ignorant as to be entirely unac-
quainted, that there is such a Coun-
try; but as it is not my Business to ac-
count for their Omissions, I shall say no
more of them, but that their Silence
has rendered this Work of mine the
more necessary. How well I have ex-
ecuted it, or how far it is still defici-
ent, must be submitted to the candid
and impartial Reader. I shall not be
at all surpris'd, if some censorious
People blame me for my bold Attempt,
and others find fault with the Perfor-
mance; this is what I expect, and am
prepared for by that Distich of Mim-
nermus,*

*Oblectes Animum; plebs est morosa legendo,
Ille benè de te dicet, at ille malè.*

I shall

I shall conclude this Preface with wishing the Reader may find all the Pleasure and Satisfaction he can desire in perusing this short Work. If it affords him no Improvement, I may venture to promise it will at least give him some Entertainment. But lest any thing I might say here, should be suspected of Partiality, I shall decline adding any thing more of myself, but lay before my Reader the following Opinion of that truly learned and Right Reverend Prelate the Bishop of London, who says,

*“ Of all the Studies to which Men
 “ are drawn, either by Inclination or
 “ Interest, perhaps no one can pre-
 “ tend to such an agreeable Pleasure,
 “ as the DESCRIPTION OF COUN-
 “ TRIES. By a Variety of Pros-
 “ pects, they feed us constantly with
 “ fresh Satisfaction; and the Objects
 “ they present are so chained together,
 “ that*

“ that a curious Reader has much
 “ ado to break off. This is the Ad-
 “ vantage of that Subject in Gene-
 “ ral.” But when we come to Af-
 fairs that Nearly concern us, the Re-
 lish is still heightened in Proportion
 to every One’s Love for the Country
 treated of.



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A

NEW DESCRIPTION
OF
MERRYLAND.

CHAP. I.

*Of the NAME of MERRYLAND,
and whence it is so called.*

THE Names of most Countries have been much altered from those they were formerly known by; and even at this Day, different Nations, nay, People of the same Country, give different Names to the same Place. MERRYLAND, like other Countries, has been known under great Variety of Names, and perhaps now has as various Appellations as any Part of the Creation: It is not my purpose to trouble the Reader with a long Recital of them, nor to dispute which is the most proper; let it suffice in these Pages to call

it MERRYLAND, so named (as the learned Antiquarians inform us) from the Greek word *μυρσος*, i. e. *Unguentis inungo*, alluding to the unctious Nature of the Soil, or perhaps to the Practice of some People in that Country, of whom the Historians say, *in Lætitiâ Unguentis utebantur, erantque μυρσαιοι*, i. e. *Unguentis & oleo delibuti*: By the French it is called *Terre-Gaillarde*, from the Greek *αγαλλιαω*, *Lætitia exulto*, or from *γαίω*, *Lætor*. Either of these Derivations seem to me very plausible, and have very significant Reference, to the wonderful Delight People enjoy in MERRYLAND, as will be more fully related in the succeeding Chapters: However, far be it from me to presume absolutely to fix this Derivation as infallible; it being a Matter of great Consequence to the learned World, I shall with all Humility submit it to the more judicious Determination of the learned and useful Society of Antiquarians; in the mean while I am pretty much confirmed in the Justness of this Etymology by the *High-German* and *Dutch* Names of MERRYLAND, the first calling it *ffrolich-landt*, and the other *Arrolick-landt*, both which agree in the same Signification, and in my humble Opinion clear up the Matter almost beyond Dispute.

C H A P. II.

Of the Situation of MERRYLAND.

MERRYLAND is a Part of that vast Continent called by the *Dutch* Geographers, the **Wroislandtschap**; it is situate in a low Part of the Continent, bounded on the upper Side, or to the Northward, by the little Mountain called **MNSVNRs**, on the East and West by **COXASIN** and **COXADEXT**, and on the South or lower Part it lies open to the **TERRA-FIRMA**.

There is something very remarkable and surprising as to the *Latitude* and *Longitude* of this Country, neither of which could ever yet be fixed to any certain Degree; and it is pretty evident, however strange it may seem, that there are as great Variations both of the Latitude and Longitude in **MERRYLAND**, as of the Mariner's Compass in other Parts of the World: To confirm this, I beg Leave to assure the Reader of a Matter of Fact, which, if he be an entire Stranger to **MERRYLAND**, he will perhaps scarce have Faith to believe; but they who have any tolerable Experience and Knowledge of the Country, will be so far from discrediting, that I do not doubt but they will be ready to confirm it by their own Observation.

*But now attend; I'll teach thee something new,
'Tis strange, but yet 'tis Reason, and 'tis true:
Ev'n what we now with greatest Ease receive,
Seem'd strange at first, and we could scarce
believe:*

*And what we wonder at, as Years increase,
Will seem more plain, and all our Wonders cease.*

CREECH'S Lucret. B. II.

Know then courteous Reader, soon after my first Enterance into this wonderful and delightful Country, (having as prying a Curiosity as most Men) I endeavoured to get the best Insight that was possible relating to the State of MERRYLAND, observing with diligent Attention every Thing the Country afforded that was remarkable either in Art or Nature, all which I intend to communicate to the Publick in the following Sheets. Among other Things I made very accurate Observations both of the *Latitude* and *Longitude*, and may venture to say, there could be no considerable Mistake in my Observations, as they were made with a *proper Instrument*, of a large Radius, and in perfect good Order; nay, I have been assured, when I was in MERRYLAND, that my Instrument was inferiour to none: But some Years after, happening to be there again, and repeating the Experiment, I found both Latitude and Longitude increased many Degrees, tho' I tried it in the same Spot, and with the same Instrument as before. It may, perhaps, be suspected, that

that my Instrument might have suffered since the first Experiment was made, (as it is well known the best are liable to Damage, by Time and frequent Use) but that was not the Case; for tho' mine had, I must confess, been often used, yet it was with such prudent Care and Caution, that it was in as great Perfection as ever, and even at this Day I could venture to recommend it as a tolerable good one, tho' I have had it above these 30 Years, and used it pretty freely, and with great Satisfaction to myself and others.

That the Latitude and Longitude then were evidently and considerably increased, is Matter of Fact beyond Dispute; but how to account for so wonderful a Phenomenon I must leave to others, and should think it well worthy the Consideration of that curious and learned Body, the *Royal Society*: That they may have all the Hints and Information towards it, which my Experience can afford, I must acquaint them, that this surprising Increase of Latitude and Longitude in MERRYLAND, seldom fails to happen, after having a *fruitful Season* in that Country (as had been the Case when my Experiment was last made) so much does it increase, that after a few Years one would scarce believe he was in the same Part of the World; nor is its Fruitfulness the only Cause of this Variation; frequent tilling the Soil, tho' it should prove utterly barren, or no Seed be sown in it, is observed in some Measure to produce the same Effect.

This

This extraordinary Alteration of the Latitude is not at all agreeable, but the greater Degree it extends to, the less delightful is the Country to its Inhabitants; on which Consideration some Projectors have been induced to try several Methods (and as they pretend with Success) for reducing the Latitude, when too much augmented, and by that Means restore MERRYLAND, at least in Appearance, to its primitive State; but they must be ignorant People indeed, who can be imposed on by such Practices; yet such it seems there have been, but they are justly laughed at for their Credulity, and by no-body more, than by the very Persons who so easily deceived them.

I need say no more of the Situation of this Country, but after the Example of that excellent Geographer Mr. *Patrick Gordon* (who in his *Geographical Grammar* tells us what Place is the *Antipodes*, or opposite Part of the Globe to the several Countries he treats of) I shall conclude this Chapter by informing the curious Reader, that the *Antipodes* to MERRYLAND is by some said to be that prominent Part of the Continent called PDX, known in *High Dutch* by the Name of **der Araz back**; others affirm the *Antipodes* to be in the very uttermost Point of the Promontory CPT, but as it is not my Intention to concern myself in these Disputes, but stick as close as may be to my Subject, I shall leave the Affair of the *Antipodes* to those who have a *Taste* that Way; only shall observe, there are some People who
very

very preposterously (as I think) give the Preference to the PDX ; the *Italian* Geographers are pretty much inclined that Way ; some of the *Dutch* have likewise come into it, and of late Years a few in *Great Britain* have appeared not altogether averse to it.

C H A P. III.

Of the AIR, SOIL, RIVERS, CANALS, &c.

THE AIR in MERRYLAND is very different, being in some Provinces perfectly pure and healthy, in others extremely gross and pestilential ; for the most part it may be said to be like the Air in *Holland*, “ generally “ *thick and moist, by reason of the frequent “ Fogs which arise from its Lakes and Canals ;*” yet is it mostly very pleasant and agreeable to the Inhabitants, tho’ it cannot always be said to be wholesome. In the most healthful Provinces it agrees well with young and vigorous Constitutions ; but for old Men, or those who are consumptive, this Country is at best esteemed very pernicious, especially if they enjoy it too much, which many are tempted to, by the bewitching Pleasantness of the Place, of which we may say with *Solomon*,
“ *How*

“ *How fair and how pleasant art Thou, O
Love, for Delights!* ”

The Climate is generally warm, and sometimes so very hot, that Strangers inconsiderately coming into it, have suffered exceedingly; many have lost their Lives by it, some break out in Sores and Ulcers difficult to be cured; and others, if they escape with their Lives, have lost a Member. It is certain there can be no Distemper more to be dreaded than this, occasioned by the Heat of the Climate in MERRYLAND; the Curious may see it particularly described, with all its hideous Symptoms, by our Countryman *Bartholomew Glanville* (who flourished about the Year 1360) in his Book *De Proprietatibus Rerum*, translated by *John Trevisa*, Vicar of *Barkeley*, in 1398. But notwithstanding this Inconvenience is so well known, so bewitchingly tempting is the Country, that People will too frequently rush into it without Caution or Consideration of their Danger; even those who know the ill Consequence from dear bought Experience, are not always deterred from precipitantly repeating the same Folly; nay, so remarkable is this Rashness in the Inhabitants of MERRYLAND, that it is become a common Proverb to say *they have no Forecast*. But this dangerous Heat of the Climate, with all its dreadful Concomitants, is not so very terrible, but it may be guarded against by taking proper Precautions, and People might venture into it without much Hazard, even at the worst Seasons, and in the
most

most unhealthy Provinces; they need no more to avoid the Danger, but be careful always to wear *proper Cloathing*, of which they have a Sort that is very commodious, and peculiarly adapted to this Country; it is made of an extraordinary fine thin Substance, and contrived so as to be all of one Piece, and without a Seam, only about the Bottom it is generally bound round with a scarlet Ribbon for Ornament. This *Cloathing* has been found so useful, that a modern Bard thought fit to write a Poem in its Commendation, and has most elegantly celebrated its Praises in Blank Verse.

Sometimes the Climate is as much on the other Extream, cold, to a great Degree; but this rarely happens, nor has it any bad Effect on the Inhabitants, otherwise than by being disagreeable and uncomfortable to live in.

In general the Country is warm enough, and so exceeding delightful, that every Man at first coming into it is transported with Pleasure; the very Sight of MERRYLAND, or any near Approach to it, puts one in strange Raptures, and even in dreaming of it, People have enjoyed a most pleasing Kind of Delirium: In short, it is the liveliest and sweetest Region of the World, and is thus painted by the Poet,

*Quas neque concutiunt Venti, neque Nubila
Nimbis*

*Aspergunt, neque nix acri concreta pruina
Cana cadens violat, semperque innubilis Æther
Contigit & latè diffuso Lumine ridet.*

However, I must own, the Poet seems to have been a little too bold and hyperbolical in this Description; and fond as I am of the Country, I am not so partial as to think this poetic Flight strictly justifiable, notwithstanding all the learned Commentators have wrote to reconcile it to Truth:

Crescit in immensum facunda Licentia Vatum.

The Country lying very low (as Mr. Gordon says of *Holland*) its Soil is naturally very wet and fenny, the Parts that are best inhabited are generally the moistest, and Naturalists tell us, this Moisture contributes much to its Fruitfulness; where it is dry, it seldom proves fruitful, nor agreeable to the Tiller: The Parts which have never been broken up, nor had Spade or Plough in them, are most esteemed; and so fond are People of having the first Tilling of a fresh Spot, that I have known some Hundreds of Pounds given to obtain that Pleasure.

MERRYLAND is well water'd by a River, which takes its Rise from a large Reservoir or Lake in the Neighbourhood called *VSCA*, and discharges itself with a most impetuous Current, and frightful Cataract towards the *Terra Firma* near the Entry of the Great Gulph; of this River I shall treat more particularly in another Chapter.

There is a spacious CANAL runs through the Midst of this Country, from one End almost to the other; 'tis so deep that Authors affirm

firm it has no Bottom. I have often sounded it in many Parts, and tho' I don't doubt but it has a Bottom, I must own I never could reach it; perhaps, had my Sounding-line been a few Fathoms longer, it might have reached the Bottom. We are told of *Solomon's Wells* or Cisterns at a Place the *Turks* call *Roselayne*, which, like this Canal, are reputed to be unfathomable; and the current Tradition is, that they are filled from a subterraneous River, which that wise King, by his great Sagacity, knew to run underground in that Place. Vide *De Bruyn. Voyag. au Levant*. Whether this might not as properly be called *Solomon's Canal*, I leave to the Reader's Judgment. 'Tis certain, that wise King was no Stranger to this Country, but spent a great deal in Improvements he made in several Provinces of it.

All the superfluous Moisture of the Country is drained off through this Canal, and it is likewise the Conveyance of all Provisions to the upper Part of **MERRYLAND**; all the Seed sowed in the Country, is conveyed this Way to the *Great Storehouse* at the upper End of it, and in short, there is no Commodity imported into **MERRYLAND**, but by this Road, so that you may easily conceive it to be a Place of *great Traffick*.

The Country is generally fertile enough, where duly manured; and some Parts are so exceeding fruitful as to bear two or three Crops at a Time; a *Dutch Traveller* tells us, there was once known to be as many Crops as

Days in the Year, but this I look upon as apocryphal. Other Provinces are so utterly barren, that tho' a Man should leave no Stone unturn'd, but labour and toil for ever, no Seed will take Root in them; yet so whimsical are many of the Inhabitants, that they would choose one of these barren Spots, rather than the more fertile ones; and indeed there is some Reason for it, People having found by Experience several great Inconveniences by too fruitful a Crop. 'Tis a lamentable Thing for a Man to have a large Crop, when his Circumstances can't afford Houses to keep it in, or Thatch to cover it; to let it perish would be infamous, and what can a poor Man do? for he can't dispose of it immediately, it must be kept several Years at great Expence to him, before 'tis fit for the Market, or capable of making the least Return for his Labour and Expence. These are melancholy Circumstances for the poor Farmers.

*Quæque ipse miserrima vidi,
Et Quorum pars Magna fui.*

This Peculiarity has put some People on inventing Means to prevent the Seed taking Root, or to destroy it before it comes to Maturity; but such Practices are only used by Stealth, and not openly approved of; it is looked on as a bad Practice, and we are told it was formerly punished with Death. It sounds odd, but it is not less true than strange, that many have been ruined and forced to run away, by the Great-
ness

ness of their Crop; and on the other hand, many are in a Manner miserable and never satisfied, because their Spots prove barren — Strange Contradiction in Peoples Tempers! that what would be one Man's Delight, should be another Man's Torment!

We are told by *Kercher*, of a Mountain at *Chekian*, whose Soil is of that Quality that it tames Tygers, &c. This Mountain, I presume, must be of the same Kind of Soil as MERRYLAND, which in some Degree has the Power of *taming* the wildest Creatures; nay, it will first make them in a Manner mad, and tame them afterwards.

I shall conclude this Chapter on the Soil of MERRYLAND, by saying, “ her Vallies are “ like *Eden*, her Hills like *Lebanon*, her “ Springs as *Pisgab*, and her Rivers as *Jordan*; that she is a *Paradise* of Pleasure, and “ *Garden* of Delight.”

C H A P. IV.

Of the vast Extent of MERRYLAND, its Divisions and principal Places of Note.

THE *Arabian* Geographical Lexicographer cited by *Schultens* in his Geographical Commentary, at the End of his Edition of

of *Soltan Salab'addin's* Life, very justly observes, that the exact Limits of this vast Country are entirely unknown, the greatest Traveller having never been able to discover its utmost Bounds; and whoever attempts such a Discovery may properly enough be said to grope in the dark.

Besides those Parts which are well known, and have been described by Travellers, there are others of which we know but little, tho' some Authors have pretended to be very exact and particular in their Descriptions of them, for which they have no better Authority than their own Fancy or Invention; and there are other Parts of this Country still unknown to us. It would swell this Work too much, and be of little Use to the Reader, to take notice of every Particular; I shall therefore content myself with mentioning such Parts as are of most Note, which are these.

1st, At the End of the Great Canal toward the *Terra Firma*, are two Forts called *LBA*, between which every one must necessarily pass, that goes up the Country, there being no other Road. The Fortifications are not very strong, tho' they have *Curtains*, *Hornworks*, and *Ramparts*; they have indeed sometimes defended the Pass a pretty while, but were seldom or never known to hold out long against a close and vigorous Attack.

2^d, Near these Forts is the Metropolis, called *CLTRS*; 'tis a pleasant Place, much delighted in by the Queens of *MERRYLAND*,
and

and is their chief Palace, or rather *Pleasure Seat*; it was at first but small, but the Pleasure some of the Queens have found in it, has occasion'd their extending its Bounds considerably.

3d, A little farther up the Country are two other Fortresses, called NMPH, seated near the Banks of the great River. These have sometimes made a stout Resistance, against strong Attacks and skilful Engineers, and have endured a great deal of Hardship in the Assault, so that Instances might be given of the most vigorous Assailants being repuls'd with great Loss and Confusion. On the other hand, they have often been known to give way upon the first slight Attack, and admit the Assailants without any Opposition.

4th, At the upper End of the great Canal, mention'd in the former Chapter, is the great Treasury or Storehouse called UTRS, of which *Plautus* gives this Description,

—— *Item esse reor*
Mare ut est; quod das devorat, nunquam
abundat,
Des quantum vis, —

This *Storehouse* is of a very particular Structure, in Shape it somewhat resembles one of our common pint Bottles, with the Neck downwards. 'Tis so admirably well contrived, that its Dimensions are always adapted to its Contents; for as the Store contain'd in it increases, so the Bounds are extended in Proportion; and
when

when it is quite empty, or but little in it, it contracts or diminishes proportionably, and that without any Art or Assistance.

5th, Another Part of this Country, often mentioned by Authors, is HMN, about which there have been great Controversies and Disputes among the Learned, some denying there ever was such a Place, others positively affirming to have seen it: For my Part, after the nicest Inquiry I could make, I never could discover any Thing satisfactory about it; and most Travellers now agree, that if it ever did exist, it is utterly defaced by Time or Accident, so that in these latter Ages, no Footstep of it is to be found; agreeable to that Saying of the Poet,

— *Etiam ipsæ periere Ruinæ.*

6th, Here I must not omit to mention a famous pleasant Mount called MNSVNRS, which overlooks the whole Country; and, lastly, round the Borders of MERRYLAND is a spacious Forest, which (as Mr. Chamberlayne says of the Forests in England) “seems to have been preserved for the Pleasure of Variety, and Diversion of Hunting.”

These are the principal Places observed by Travellers; and to give a more compleat Geographical Description of this Country, I intended to have added a Map of it, but recollecting it would considerably enhance the Price of the Book, I chose rather to refer the curious Reader to a Map of MERRYLAND, curiously engraven

engraven on Copper-plate, and published some Years ago by the Learned Mr. *Moriceau*, who was a great Traveller in that Country, and surveyed it with tolerable Exactness. There the Reader may see all the noted Places and Divisions laid down exactly as they are situated; and here I must in Justice to the Learned Sir *R. M.* acknowledge that his late contrived *Model* or *Machine*, is a very ingenious Invention, which gives a better Idea of MERRYLAND than can possibly be done by the best Maps, or any written Description.

CH A P. V.

Of the Ancient and Modern Inhabitants, their Manners, Customs, &c.

MERRYLAND is well known to have been inhabited soon after the Fall, and *Adam* was the first Adventurer who planted a Colony in this fruitful and delicious Country. After him the *Patriarchs* were industrious Tillers of the Soil. *David* and *Solomon* were often there, and many modern Kings and Princes have honour'd this Country with their Royal presence and Protection. King *Charles II.* in particular was in close Alliance with it, and it flourished exceedingly in his Days. Nor has it been slighted by his Royal successors, some
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of whom have taken great Delight in it, and their Councils have sometimes been influenced by the Situation of Affairs in MERRYLAND. We have had *Ministers*, who preferred its Welfare to that of their own Country, and Bishops who would not be displeased to have a small *Bishoprick* in MERRYLAND. At present, the Inhabitants of this Country are very numerous, and composed of People of all Degrees, all Religions, and of all Nations.

As to the Manners of the Inhabitants, tho' they are sometimes very low and despicable, being soon dispirited and dejected by violent Exercise; yet when in good Spirit, they are very strong and vigorous, and when bent upon their Pleasure, are very bold and daring. They are much addicted to Pleasure and Diversion *in private*, notwithstanding they affect great Gravity and Restraint in public.

They are vastly ticklish, and so fond of it, that when they can get no-body to please them that way, they will *tickle themselves*. They are naturally given to Love, Freedom, and Liberty, prone to Change and Variety, much given to Dissembling and Flattery, and greatly addicted to Venerly; they have little Esteem of Frugality or Oeconomy, but *spend all they can*, and glory who *spends most*. They pride themselves much in their stiff and stately Carriage, and cannot have a greater Compliment paid them, than by comparing them to the *Behemoth*, of whom it is said in *Job*, that his
Strength

Strength is in his Loins, and he moveth his Tail like a Cedar.

Homer gives a beautiful Description of their Boldness and Bravery in an Engagement, and with what Intrepidity they make an Attack ; which Mr. Pope has translated thus — —

*He foams, he glares, he bounds against them all ;
And if he falls, his Courage makes him fall.*

One remarkable Custom of the Natives is, that the Moment they come into the World, they leave the particular Spot they were born in, and never after return to it, but wander about till they are 14 or 15 Years old, at which Age they generally look out for some other Spot of MERRYLAND, and take Possession of it the first Opportunity ; but to enter again in that Part they were born in, is looked on as an infamous Crime, and severely punishable by Law ; yet some have been hardy enough to do it.

There are some whimsical Ceremonies commonly observed by People when they take Possession of any Part of this Country, such as prostrating themselves on their Faces, and muttering many Ejaculations in praise of the Spot they have chosen ; then laying their Hand on it by way of *taking Seisin* ; then he sticks his Plough in it, and falls to labouring the Soil with all his Might, the Labourer being generally on his Knees : Some indeed work standing ; but the other Way is the most common.

Another Thing very remarkable is, the Custom observed commonly at all Merry-makings among the Men when over a Bottle; instead of toasting their Mistresses, they begin with drinking a Health to MERRYLAND; and it is a known Rule, that this must be always drank in a *Bumper*. If any one refuses, he is looked on as a sneaking Fellow. To keep them in mind of this Duty, I have seen the following Verses inscribed on their Cups and Glasses under the Word MERRYLAND.

*Hic quicunque legis nomen Amabile
Pleno lætoque Cyatho salutem libes,
Sic tibi res amatoricæ prospere cedant,
Tua sic coronet vota Cupido.*

As to the Genius of the Inhabitants it may be observed, the *Liberal Arts* are here in the greatest repute; here *Experimental Philosophy* has been improved to a wonder; *Physic* and *Surgery* have flourished exceedingly; and no Country is better stock'd with *Divines*. And for *Merchandizing*, the great Wealth arising from Trade in some Provinces, is a plain Proof and Demonstration, that *Traffick* is carried on in MERRYLAND with great Success.

Here I must not omit taking notice, that this Country has produced and inspired great Numbers of excellent *Poets*, and in return, they have in many of their Works expressed their great Regard for the Country, and celebrated

brated its Praises with the utmost Gratitude and Affection. One of them says,

*Hic ætatis nostræ primordia novit,
Annos fœlices, lætitiæque dies :
Hic locus ingenuus pueriles imbuit annos
Artibus, & nostræ laudis origo fuit.*

Which may be translated,

*Here my first Breath with happy Stars was
drawn ;
Here my glad Years and all my Joys began :
In gradual Knowledge, here my Mind increast ;
Here the first Sparks of Glory fire'd my
Breast.*

CH A P. VI.

*Of the Product and Commodities, such
as Fish, Fowls, Beasts, Plants, &c.*

TH O' this Country is so plentifully water-
ed, by so fine a River and Canal, it is
but indifferently stored with *Fish* ; yet when a
Stranger comes to MERRYLAND he would ima-
gine by the Smell of the Air, that the Country
abounded with *Ling* or *Red-Herring* ; as we are
told the River *Tyssa* in *Hungary* smells of *Fish* ;
so strong is this Smell sometimes, that it is very
offensive ;

offensive; but here are no such Fish to be seen. *Cod* indeed are often found about the lower end of the great Canal, and *Crabs* in plenty on its Banks. I never heard of any other Fish in MERRYLAND except *Muscles*, *Gudgeons* in abundance, some *Dabs*, and a few *Maids*; these last are rarely met with, and it is the Difficulty of catching them, I suppose makes them much valued by Persons of nice Taste. I have indeed heard of a *Mackarel* being found here by Mr. R. a Surgeon of *Plymouth*; but this was purely accidental, it being only one single *Mackarel*, brought to MERRYLAND by a young Woman merely for the sake of trying an Experiment. However, this Scarcity of Fish is the less to be lamented, as in this Country a *Flesh Diet* is most delighted in, and of that they generally are pretty well supplied.

For *Fowls*, here are *Cocks*, *Wagtails*, *Buzzards*, *Widgeons* and *Gulls*, besides *Tomtits*, which being small insignificant Creatures are of no Esteem, and *Capons*, which are likewise held in great disrepute.

Of Beasts, here are plenty of *Asses*, some *Bears*, *Dromedaries* and *Mules*, and many fly *Old Foxes*. I have heard likewise of *Baboons*, *Monkeys*, and *Spaniels*; but as it is unnatural to find them here, I believe it is likewise more uncommon than is reported. I know it has been strongly insisted on by several learned Men (some of them great Travellers in MERRYLAND.) that *Rabbits* have been bred in that Country, and they expected great Profits from a Warren they

they pretended to have lately discovered ; but, after a great Noise made about it, All came to nothing.

As for Commodities of the Mineral and Vegetable kind, here are a few of each which I shall take notice of, as far as my Observation and Memory serves me.

Of the *Mineral kind*, the *Blue* or *Roman Vitriol* (which is of great Use to eat away proud Flesh) is often found on the Borders of this Country ; and it is observed, the Provinces where this is found, are generally unwholesome.

There have been Instances of *Gold* and *Silver* discovered here, nor is the Country destitute of *precious Stones*, here being a kind much esteemed, tho' very common to be met with on the Surface ; so fond are they of them, that a Man would be looked on with Contempt in MERRYLAND, if he had not at least two of them, which they always carry about them in a Purse ; they contribute very much to the Fruitfulness of the Soil.

Of the vegetable Kind, here is *Rue* in great plenty ; *Carrots* are no Strangers to this Soil, but are much used ; here is some *True-love* and *Sweet Marjoram*, and the Plant called *Maiden-bair* ; but the last is very scarce. Here is no Scarcity of several Kinds of *Simples*, of which they make great Profit.

There is a Plant of the submarine Kind, which delights much in this Soil, the End of it resembles the *red Coral*, and partakes much
of

of its Virtue; it is highly esteemed in MERRYLAND, and is undoubtedly a great Sweetener, it being frequently applied very successfully to cure *sharp* and *sour Humours*. This Plant yields a *whitish viscid Juice*, which when taken inwardly, has a bad Effect on some People, causing a large Tumor in the Umbilical Regions, which is not got rid of again without great Pain. But there are many on whom it never has that Effect, let them take ever so great Quantities of it. It is generally reckoned an excellent Cosmetic, giving a most inexpressible resplendent Brightness to the whole Countenance, and causes sparkling Life, Spirit, and juvenile Bloom to reign in every Feature. It may properly enough be called the *Coral-plant*, as it resembles it in several Particulars. Mr. Boyle affirms of the Nature and Generation of *Coral*, that whilst it grows, it is often soft and Succulent, and propagates its Species. And Kircher was informed by the Divers, that the Coral would sometimes let fall a spermatic Juice, which lighting on a proper Body produced another *Coral*. The same may be said of the Plant above mentioned.

Another submarine Plant is said to be found in MERRYLAND, of the *Sponge-kind*, the Name of which I have forgot. They use it not only as a *Cleanser*, but also as an Antidote against the bad Effects of the Juice above mentioned.

Here are *Flowers* in great plenty, but not much to be commended, either for Fragrancy
or

or Beauty. They are not Variegated, nor is there any great Diversity of Colours; Red and White are most common. Some Naturalists have imagined these Flowers to be of a poisonous Quality; but that Notion is now sufficiently exploded, and it is observed, if they happen not to spring in their due Season, the Country generally proves unhealthy and barren.

As for Manufactures, I never heard of any in MERRYLAND worth mentioning, except those for *Pins* and *Needles*, which are made in great plenty in some of the most trading Provinces, and are famous for their *exquisite Sharpness*.

C H A P. VII.

Of the Rarities, Curiosities, &c.

TH E great RIVER mentioned in the 3^d Chapter is very remarkable; the Water is warm and brackish, and does not run in a constant Stream like other Rivers, but the Current stops every Day for Hours together, and without observing any regular Period, it all on a suddain falls a running again with great Rapidity. This River (like the River NESS in Scotland, and the Lake of DRONTHEIM in Norway) never freezes in the hardest Frosts, but always retains its natural Heat; and has another remarkable Quality, like that of the River

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ver *Adonis* near *Byblus* in *Phœnicia*, which at certain Seasons *appears bloody*, as we are told in *Maundrel's Journey from Aleppo to Jerusalem*.

The CANAL, before taken notice of, in the 3d Chapter, deserves to be ranked among the Curiosities of this Country, not only for its *wonderful Depth*, which is said to be *unfathomable*; but for another extraordinary Quality, no less surprising; for as it is reported of some Lakes in *China*, that the throwing any thing into them causes a Storm, so on the contrary many violent Storms have been appeased, if not entirely laid, by throwing into this Canal a handsome Sprig of *Coral-plant* mentioned in the 6th Chapter. This famous Canal answers the Description given in the *Atlas*, of a Lake near LE BESSE in *Brittany*, which is so deep, it never could be sounded, and in a hollow Place near it, a Noise is heard like Thunder.

Among the Rarities, may likewise justly be reckoned that wonderful Mountain on the Confines of MERRYLAND, which at some Seasons begins to extend its Dimensions both in Height and Bigness, and increases its Bulk so considerably, that it is esteemed one of the most admirable Works of Nature; after it has continued swelling thus gradually for some Months, it will fall again all at once, and be reduced to its former Compass. This Swelling is generally the Fore-runner of a *dear Year*; and therefore some of the poorer Sort, who are
not

not bound to their Farms by Lease, take the Alarm at this ominous Swelling, and fly the Country as soon as they perceive it.

There are two other pleasant little Mountains, called BBY, which tho' at some Distance from MERRYLAND, have great Affinity with that Country, and are properly reckoned as an Appendage to it. These little Mountains are exactly alike, and not far from each other, having a pleasant Valley between them; on the Top of each is a fine Fountain, that yields a very wholesome Liquor much esteemed, especially by the younger sort of People. These Fountains are often quite dry, ; but it is observed, they seldom fail to run plentifully after the Swelling of the other Mountain before-mentioned, and they have in some Degree the same Faculty of rising and falling; so that it is not without good Reason, Philosophers have imagined there is a secret Communication between these Places.

But of all the Curiosities, nothing deserves our notice so much as a small Animal, somewhat of the serpentine Kind, known by the Name of PNTL; it is often found plunging about in the great Canal, which is the Place it mostly delights in; so wonderful is this Creature, that it well deserves a particular Description in this Place, and tho' it be but small, I may say of it, as is said of the *Leviathan*, " I will not conceal his Parts, nor his
 " Power, nor his comely Proportion; he ma-
 " keth the Deep to boil like a Pot; he is
 E 2 " King

“ King over all the Children of Pride.” This Animal has neither Legs nor Feet, but by the vast Strength of its Muscles, has a Power of erecting itself, so as to stand almost upright. That learned Physician and Philosopher *Doctor Cheyne*, seems to have had this in his View, when he said, “ The *animal* Body is no-
 “ thing but a *Compages*, or Contexture of
 “ Pipes; an *hydraulick Machine*, filled with a
 “ Liquor of such a Nature asw as transfused in-
 “ to it by its *Parents*, or is changed into by
 “ the Nature of the *Food* it is nourished with,
 “ and is ever afterwards good, bad, or indif-
 “ ferent, as these two Sources have sent it forth. They are only of the Male-kind, and yet propagate their Species very plentifully. This may seem very strange at first Sight to those, *who have not thrown off the material INCRUSTATION, that intangles and fetters the full Exercise and Penetration of their natural Powers, which are tied down, sopited, and fetter'd, by the manner of our ORIGINANION*; but any one, who will consult the learned Author before mentioned, will find, that in all Animals “ originally, there must have been no
 “ Difference of Sexes, BECAUSE at last in
 “ their restored State there will be none. And
 “ that it is highly probable, the *Female* was but
 “ a *secundary* Intention, or a *Buttress* to a
 “ falling Edifice.” They are of different Sizes, from 6 to 7 or 8 Inches in height, when full grown, and from 4 to 6 in Circumference; there are some indeed of much larger

larger Dimensions, but very rarely to be met with, and there are others much less, but they are of little or no Value ; those of a midling Size are observed to be more lively and vigorous than the larger Sort, who like the Granadiers in a Regiment, are not able to make so long and frequent Marches as the Battalion Men, the latter being for the most part better set and nimbler, as being furnished with a greater plenty of Spirits. One thing is very remarkable of these Animals, that either sleeping or waking, when they lie down, they immediately contract themselves to one third of their Length and Bigness, and grow so flagged and limber, one would scarce think they had even been enabled to stand ; but when they are roused up and in full Vigour, they are very stately, and much admired for their portly Mien. Here I must beg leave to refer once more to the above quoted Author, who tells us, “ This *spiritual animal* Body, at first divinely
 “ organized, may be *rolled up, folded together,*
 “ and *contracted* in this State of its Duration,
 “ into an infinitely small *Punctum Saliens*, in-
 “ to a *Miniature of Miniature in infinitum,*
 “ and proceeding in a *diverging Series*, and
 “ progressive Gradation, that in due time
 “ it may be fit to be *nourished and increased*
 “ by the Juices of the proper *Female.*” In pursuit of their Prey, no Creature can be more keen, and they rush on it with great Eagerness. Their Skin is of a swarthy Complexion, and hangs so loose about their
 Shoulders,

Shoulders, that it frequently serves as a Hood to draw up quite over its Head and Face, or rather the Head shrinks into the Skin as a Snail pulls in his Horns and Head into his Shell. The Face of this Creature is of a reddish Complexion, and most delicately soft to the Touch; they are flat-nosed and have no Eyes, but find their Way by Instinct: They have no Bones, but are all Muscles and Flesh, which properly prepared and taken inwardly, is very refreshing and nourishing. It is reckoned a Specifick for the Green-sickness, and many other feminine Disorders, and is a Medicine so wonderfully pleasant, and easy in its Operation, that the nicest Palate or weakest Constitution may take it with Delight, and so innocent, that it is administer'd to Women with Child with great Safety.

C H A P. VIII.

Of the Government of MERRYLAND.

THE Government of this Country is *Monarchial*, and absolute in the highest Degree. As the *French* have their *Salique-Law*, by which all Females are excluded from the Throne, so on the contrary, MERRYLAND may be said to be entirely under *female Government*, there being an absolute Queen over each particular Province, whose Power is unlimited;

mitted; no Tyrants having ever required a more servile and blind Submission than the Queens of MERRYLAND. *Herodianus* Lib. 4. Cap. 3. says, " They treated their Subjects " as the meanest of Slaves, and scarce as " Men, while they put *themselves* on a Level " with the immortal Gods." There are numberless Instances of the vast Power of these Queens, the Conquests they have made, and the many cunning and crafty Methods they have used to obtain their Ends; but as I do not pretend to write their History, I must not here enlarge on that Subject. Few of these Queens but have some Favourite or prime Minister, and when they are well satisfied with his Abilities and Behaviour, they will suffer themselves to be governed in great measure by his Advice; but alas! there are some, who, tho' they have abundance of able Ministers, will never be ruled by any of them, are always varying and changing, turning out their greatest Favourites, for no other Reason in the World, but to shew their Power, and gratify their inconstant Tempers; admitting a new Favourite every Day, as if *Variety* was their greatest Delight. Such are the Caprices of these Queens, and so uncertain the Prosperity of their *ablest* Ministers. Besides their Capriciousness, many of them are also justly accused for their greedy and insatiable Tempers, forcing their Subjects to labour, drudge and toil without ceasing, to satisfy their voracious Appetites. Some few able-bodied Men have indeed made shift to do their Work,

Work, and these it must be owned, meet with good Encouragement; tho' they are kept to hard Labour, they get a comfortable Subsistence as their Reward. I have known some of them well-clothed and fed, and in a very thriving Way; but it is not every one is qualified by Nature to go through so much Fatigue.

Some of these Queens have deserved the worst of Characters, and are recorded for their Infamy in the Works of the *Greek* and *Roman* Satyrists. But our *BRITISH JUVENAL*, in an excellent *Latin* Satyr, lately published, has given us so lively a Picture of one of them, that I cannot forbear transcribing four Lines, which excell all I have ever met with, either in the Ancients or Moderns.

*Saga petit Juvenes, petit innuptasque Puel-
las;
Vel Taurum peteret, Veneris quoque mille
Figuras,
Mille modos meditans, Ætas in Crimina
Vires,
Datque Animos: crescunt anni, crescitque
Libido.*

SCAMNUM.

As to the *MILITARY GOVERNMENT* in this Country, I cannot pretend to say much, as I am not acquainted with their several Rules; but I have observed in general, that Soldiers are well esteemed and encouraged, and there are no Complaints against *standing Forces* in *MERYLAND*,

RYLAND, however they may be disapproved of in other Countries. Their Naval Forces are likewise very considerable, and of great Service to the Country, being a Set of lusty Fellows, always willing to work when ashore, and never backward in *spending their all*, for the Service of the particular Queen under whose Jurisdiction they live.

It would no doubt be very acceptable to the Reader, if after the *Civil* and *Military*, I could give him any particular Account of the *Ecclesiastical Government* of this Country, and it is with the greatest Concern that I am not able to gratify his Curiosity; for the Clergy endeavour to keep it a Secret as much as possible among themselves, being a *Mystery* they think improper to be divulged among the Laity; and tho' I could mention some Particulars on this Subject, which have accidentally come to my Knowledge, I must desire to be excused, being very unwilling to give Offence to a Body of Men, for whom I have the greatest Veneration, and to some of whom I have been particularly obliged for their kind Assistance and Recommendation, which contributed much to the Pleasure I have enjoyed in MERRYLAND. I shall therefore say no more of the Ecclesiastical Government, but only observe in general (and I hope without Offence) that there are many *Bishop-pricks* in this Country, the exact Number I cannot pretend to guess at, nor how far their several Jurisdictions reach.—Of the *inferior Clergy*, here are such abundance, that

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they

they may, on a modest Computation, be reckoned to enjoy more than the *Tytbe* of all MERRYLAND.

C H A P. IX.

Of the Religion in MERRYLAND.

C Hristianity was first planted here, in all probability, in the earliest Ages of the Church ; at present no Country can boast of more Religions, and yet no Part of Christendom may be truly said to be less religious than this. Here we may see all Sects and Parties (all Religions being embraced) and yet that which the Apostle calls *the pure and undefiled Religion before God and the Father*, is as little, if not less thought on here, than in any Christian Country whatsoever.—Here are popish Missionaries in great plenty, and by that Means the Roman Catholick Religion is pretty much propagated, they being very laborious and indefatigable ; *Quakers*, *Presbyterians*, *Independants*, and of late *Methodists*, have been great Labourers in these Parts, tho' not so professedly and openly perhaps as some others.—It is to be lamented that so many Sects are tollerated, especially considering the dangerous Heats and Flames that are kindled in the Country by the intemperate Zeal of so many different Sects.—
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In short, there is no Sect whatever, but has found footing in MERRYLAND; and it is hard to say, which of them all is the most established. One thing is pretty remarkable, in which they all agree with that excellent *Litany* of our Church, all of them joining in that Prayer; *to strengthen such as do stand, to comfort and help the weak, and raise up those that fall.*

C H A P. X.

Of the Language.

THE same may be said of the Language used in MERRYLAND, as Mr. Gordon says of the *Japanese Tongue*; “ It is very polite and copious, abounding with many synonymous Words, which are commonly used according to the Nature of the Subject, as also the Quality, Age, and Sex, both of the Speaker, and the Person to whom the Discourse is directed.”—There is somewhat very sweet and emphatick in the Language, and at the same time it may be said, they have the least need of it, of any People; for they have the Art of communicating their Sentiments very plainly by their *Eyes and Actions*, so that mute Persons can (if I may be allowed the Expression) speak intelligibly by their Eyes; and this kind

is often used with better Success than the finest Speeches. They have likewise some *particular Motions* of the *Tongue*, which very emphatically express their Meaning, without uttering any articulate Sound, and is frequently more successful than the finest Flowers of Elocution.

It is much to be lamented, that nobody has given us a *Grammar* of the MERRYLAND Language; it would be very useful to the World, and I do not despair of prevailing on the Modesty of a *learned Orator* to undertake it, who has already obliged the World with half a Score other Grammars, and is universally allowed to be as well qualified for compiling this, as he was for those.

C H A P. XI.

Of the several Tenures, &c.

T H E R E are perhaps as many kinds or Tenures in MERRYLAND as in any Country whatever, and it would be as difficult as it is needless to enumerate them all:— Some holding by *Tail-special*, some by *Tail-general*, some by *Knights-service*, some in *Fee-simple*, others only *during Pleasure*, and others by *Lease for Life*. This last is pretty common, and tho' not perhaps the best Tenure, is the most encouraged by Law, and therefore shall first

first be treated of. The Circumstances attending it are very singular, and worth Observation.

When a Man resolves to take a Spot in MERRYLAND by this Tenure, he makes the best Agreement he can with the Proprietor of the Farm, and the Terms being concluded on, publick Notice is given, that he designs speedily to enter into Possession, that any Person, who has just Objection to it, may forbid it before it is too late. You must know, there are several lawful Objections, such as the Farm being engaged before to another, or the Man having already another Farm on his Hands (for none are allowed to hold two at a time by this Tenure) his being any ways preingaged, or having any Incapacity to manure his Farm, &c. If no such Objection be made (to avoid which, they sometimes purchase a License, which dispenses with the Ceremony of giving publick Notice) then the Lease for Life is executed in this manner: The Officer, whose Business it is (and of which there is one in each Parish) reads a short Panegyrick on Farming, setting forth its original Institution and Use, the great Importance and Honour of that State, with proper Precautions not to take it in hand unadvisedly, lightly or wantonly, and requires the Man (as he shall answer at the dreadful Day of Judgment) to confess freely, if he knows any lawful Impediment why he should not proceed in taking his Lease.— Then the Man makes a solemn Promise, that
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he will take the Farm according to Law, that he will keep it whether it prove good or bad, and forsaking all others keep only unto that, for Life; the Officer then gives his Blessing to the Undertaking, prays for the Success, and then sings a Song, setting forth the Happiness of Farming, and great Promises of Fruitfulness. The Ceremony being ended, the Man takes Possession of his Lot, and commonly begins to till it before he sleeps, and whatever Season of the Year it be, he generally continues tilling and labouring hard for the first few Days, till he is tired, and forced to take some respite.

These long Leases have been the ruin of many a substantial Farmer, for People are too apt to engage in a hurry, without due Consideration of the Consequence, or competent Knowledge of the Goodness of the Farm, which frequently proves to be a stubborn Soil, and makes the poor Farmer soon repent his Bargain; but there is no Remedy, the Man is bound, and must drudge on for Life. — This Inconvenience has deterred many from ever taking Leases, and others who have rashly been bound to a hard Bargain, when they find there is no Remedy, have been so discouraged, that they become ill Husbands, growing quite indolent and negligent of their Farm, and tho' they cannot throw up their Leases, they will let their Farms lie fallow, and clandestinely take another, that is more agreeable to them.

There are many People who never will venture to take a Farm by the Tenure before mentioned,

tioned, but chuse rather to hold as *Tenants at Will* or *during Pleasure*, and tho' they pay a dear Rent, they have this Advantage, that whenever they do not like their Farm they can immediately quit it and take another; there is little Danger of one of these Farms lying long unoccupied, for if one Man leaves it to Day, another takes it to morrow.

Those who hold by *Knights-Service* in the Courtesy of MERRYLAND, thrive generally very well, and reap good Profit by their Labour, especially if they are able pains-taking Men; let the Soil be ever so long worn, and out of heart, yet they will make something of it.

There is a great deal of Ground in MERRYLAND, which lies *Common*, and this is so bad, that let a Man sow ever so much Seed in it, it seldom produces any thing better than Briars and Thorns.—This Ground is not worth inclosing, tho' some People have been Fools enough to attempt it.

There is one Inconvenience attends most of the Farms in MERRYLAND, for it is a difficult Matter to fence or inclose them so securely, but the Neighbours, who are very apt to watch all Opportunities, may easily break into them; and it is surprising, where there is so much *Common*, and a great deal of good Pasture to be got at easy rates, that People should be so fond of breaking into their Neighbours Inclosures, where if they are caught, and prosecuted, they run a Risque of paying very severely, the Law being very strict in these Cases;
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and Juries are so apt to give the Plaintiff immoderate great Damages, that I have known a Man cast in several thousand Pounds Damages, for a small Trespass on a Farm, which was little better than *Common*, and which the Owner would gladly have sold the *Fee-simple* of, for a hundredth Part of the Money.

C H A P. XII.

Of the Harbours, Bays, Creeks, Sands, Rocks, and other dangerous Places; with the Settings and Flowings of the Tides and Currents; also Directions for Strangers steering Safe into MERRYLAND.

TO recite all the *Bays, Creeks, &c.* would be an endless Piece of Work; and it is as impossible to point out all the *Rocks*, which People have split on, when bound for MERRYLAND: But I shall here give the Reader the best Directions I can to pilot him safe to this charming Country, by describing the Two Courses that are most commonly steered, and leave it to every one to chuse which suits best with his Inclination or Convenience.

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They who go by the upper Course, make first, for that Part of the Continent called *Lps*, where they generally *bring to*, and salute the Fort; and sometimes it is required that they pay the *Customs* and *Duties* here, before they are allowed to proceed further; but this is not always demanded: Then if you find the Wind favourable, Steer along Shoar to the *Bby-Mountains*, where there is *good riding*, and if you meet with no Storm, but find it calm and quiet, you may thence safely venture to run on with the Tide, and push in boldly for the Harbour; but if you find rough and tempestuous Weather, as sometimes happens at first touching at *Bby*, and the Tide strong against you, it is best to *lie-by*, till the Storm is appeased, and a fairer Prospect offers of a prosperous Voyage; nor should you be discouraged by every little *Squall* which you may meet with at this Place, for generally these *Squalls*, tho' they seem violent at first, soon blow over without much Damage.

Some People prefer the Lower-Course, which is, at once to run in boldly up *the Straits of Tibia*, with the *Coxadext* bearing close on the Larboard-Bow, and so run a head, directly as the Current carries you, into the Harbour; and indeed when the *Trade-winds* set in, this Course cannot fail.

In either of these Courses, it is best to be provided with a good *Forestaff*, kept in such Order as to be always ready for Use at a Moment's Warning. I have known some People,

for want of this Instrument being in readiness, make a very unsuccessful Voyage, and been put back again, to their great Disappointment, when they were just at the Entry of the Harbour. It is also proper to make frequent *Observations* and *Soundings*; but as Mr. Collins says in his *Coasting Pilot*, “ the Thing principally to be observed, is the *Setting of the Tide*, which often alters the Course to the Disappointment of the Mariner, for when you sail close upon a Wind, if the Tide takes you on the Weather-bough, you will fall too much to Leeward of your Expectation, and if on the Lee-bough, it carries you too much to Windward.” The same Author very justly observes, “ There is generally so great an *Indraught* of the Tide, that in little Wind or a Calm, you will be drawn in, to Admiration.

Tho’ the Tide is generally very favourable, and sets into the Harbour, it is to be noted, that at the Time of *Spring-Tides*, which only flow for four or five Days, once in a Month, the Current then runs strong out and it is best to lie by till the Spring is over, tho’ some People make no scruple of going in when the *Spring-Tides* are at the height.

There are People who, instead of steering either of these Courses, incline sometimes to go about by the *Windward-Passage*, but this I do not so well approve; in some Circumstances indeed, it may be convenient, but I believe it is com-

commonly done more for sake of Variety than Convenience.

Different Pilots have given us Variety of Directions. and shew'd many Ways of steering safely to MERRYLAND; among others, that ingenious Pilot *M. Aratine* has published several *Charts*, with the different Bearings, &c. to which I refer the curious Reader, rather than swell this Chapter any more; and indeed I do not see any great Necessity for many Directions, the Voyage not being so difficult, but what a Blind-man may almost find his Way thither, by one Course or another; or should any one be at a loss, when he comes to the Coast of MERRYLAND, it's ten to one but he will find a Pilot ready to help him into Harbour, they being ready enough to oblige Strangers in that way, as I myself found in my first Voyage, when I was very young and not expert in these Matters. It is remarkable, that when our Mariners come near the Coast in other Parts of the World, they wish for Light-nights, that they may see the Shoar, &c. but in the Voyages to MERRYLAND, they meet with no Inconvenience from the Dark, but find it generally favours them, and helps into Harbour with less Trouble than broad Day-light.

After you are fairly entered the Mouth of the Harbour, go up as far as you can, and come to an Anchor, veering out as much Cable as possible, the more you veer the better you will ride. The chief thing is to beware of anchoring in foul Ground, for here is some
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much *gruffer* than others, and a great deal is very bad, that it will soon spoil the best of Cables; the sandy or grey Ground are not good to anchor in, the Brown is best, in my Opinion: But as People cannot always have their Choice, they must be contented with such as they can get.

Now, having brought my Reader to anchor in this pleasant Harbour, I conclude with wishing him all the Delight MERRYLAND can afford; I have endeavoured to conduct him safe, and give him a full View of this delicious Country, without the Danger of Waves, Tempests, or Shipwreck, and if he reaps either Pleasure or Profit from my Labour, I shall think the Pains I have taken to compile this short Treatise, very well rewarded.

F I N I S.



